(b) if so, whether it has come to the notice of Government that Karnataka has already made its stand clear; and

(c) the steps, if any, taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A letter from the Chief Minister, Karnataka has been received on the subject.

(c) The Government of India's stand has consistently been that these disputes can be resolved only with the willing cooperation of the State Governments concerned and that the Central Government works only as a facilitator for amicable settlement of the disputes between the States in a spirit of mutual accommodation and understanding.

Promotion of Constables Working in SSB

3548. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed for promotion of constables working in SSB;

(b) whether it is a fact that despite working more than 15 years, they have not been promoted in the next pay scale or grade as recommended by Fifth Central Pay Commission and Government Orders by Department of Personnel and Training dated 9th August, 1999;

(c) whether Government will take any action against concerned officials for not implementing these orders; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) The Criteria fixed for promotion of constable to Lance Naik in the SSB is given below:—

(i) should be Matriculate or should have passed and third class departmental certificate of education;

(ii) should have put in three years continuous service;

(iii) should have successfully undergone the junior cadre course.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected from SSB and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Terrorist attack on Sikhs in J and K

†3549. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) The Government reaction towards the newsitem under the caption "Srinagar Main Atankbadiyon Ne Aath Sikho Ko Goliyo Se Bhoona", appeared in Dainik Jagran dated 4th February, 2001;

(b) the measures Government propose to take in order to tackle such a situation;

(c) whether Government are considering to observe strict vigilance in view of this serious and heinous incident; and

(d) if so, the details therefor and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) On February 03, 2001 terrorists shot dead six Sikh and injured five others in Mehjoor Nagar, Srinagar.

(b) to (d) Islamic outfits operating in J&K keep trying to create a communal divide by resorting to in-group killings of members of minority communities and thereby creating an atmosphere of fear with the aim to ethnic cleansing and forcing their exodus. To prevent it, the State Government has taken various preventive/confidence-building measures which *inter-alia* include;

(i) Strengthening the Village Defence Committee system by providing them Training and improved weaponry and communication equipment;

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.